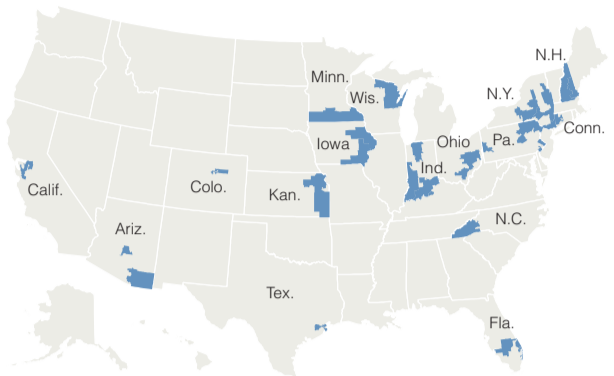
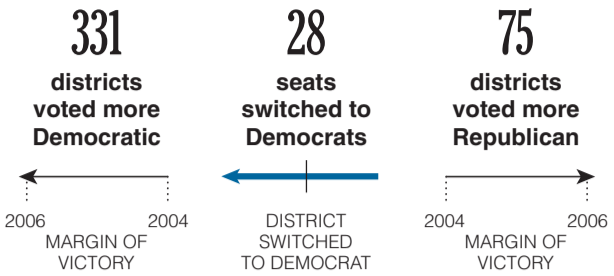


Voters Shift the House to the Democrats

How to Read This Chart

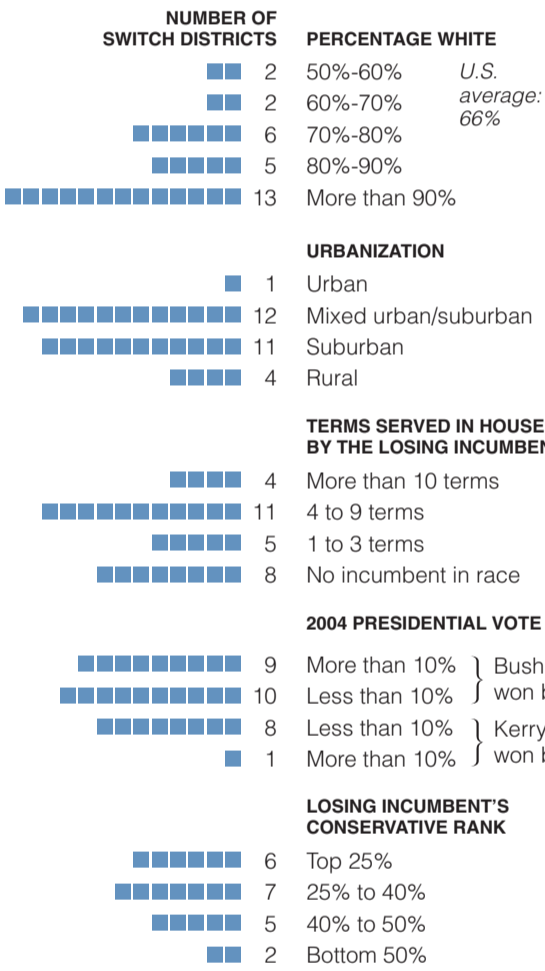
In the chart, every district in the House is represented by an arrow. The arrowhead is the margin of victory in 2006; the tail is the margin in 2004. If the arrow points to the right, the district voted more Republican than in 2004; if it points to the left, the district voted more Democratic. The longer the arrow, the larger the shift.



Districts That Switched to the Democrats

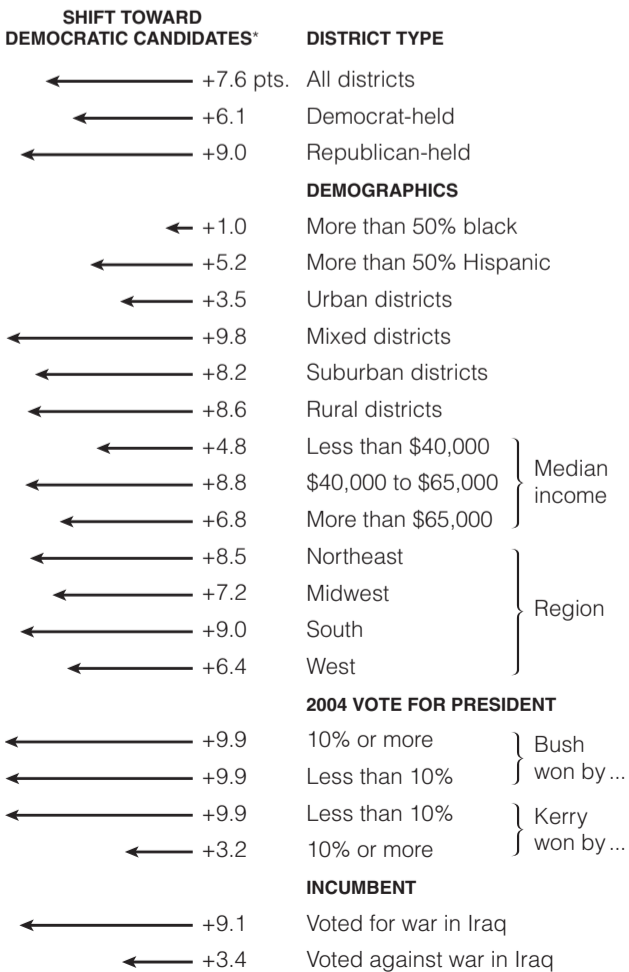
This is the first election since at least 1970 in which the Republicans failed to pick up a single Democratic seat, excluding years when districts were redrawn. Democrats benefited from the "six-year itch" that has historically afflicted the party holding the White House midway through a president's second term, particularly when that party has controlled Congress as well.

Democrats defeated 20 Republican incumbents, and 19 of the 28 districts that switched to Democrats elected President Bush in 2004. As a group, the districts that switched were mostly white, suburban and middle class.



What Happened Across the House

Democrats won by larger margins in more than 80 percent of all the House districts when compared with 2004. Here is how much larger the margins were for Democratic candidates in different categories of districts:



* The median of the differences between the winning margin in 2006 and the margin in 2004.
 † Includes two districts that will be decided in runoffs.

Sources: 2004 House data and some incumbent characteristics from the C.Q. Voting and Elections Collection; 2006 data from The Associated Press; demographic data from the Census Bureau; 2004 presidential vote data and conservative rankings from the National Journal

